

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

In re) Chapter 7
) Case No. 15-00973
Kipp & Nadine Johnson,)
) Honorable Donald R. Cassling
) (Geneva)
Debtors.) Hearing Date: April 8, 2016
) Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.

COVER SHEET FOR APPLICATION FOR
PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

Name of Applicant: Baldi Berg, Ltd.

Authorized to Provide
Professional Services to: Elizabeth C. Berg, Trustee

Date of Order Authorizing
Employment: May 15, 2015

Period for Which
Compensation is sought: May 7, 2015 to close of case

Amount of Fees sought: \$2,303.00

Amount of Expense
Reimbursement sought: \$0.00

This is an: Interim Application ☐ Final Application ☒

If this is not the first application filed herein by this professional, disclose as to all prior fee applications:

<u>Date Filed</u>	<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Total Requested (Fees & Expenses)</u>	<u>Total Allowed</u>
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Not Applicable

The aggregate amount of fees and expenses paid to the Applicant to date for services rendered and expenses incurred herein is: \$ -0-.

Dated: March 18, 2016

Baldi Berg, Ltd.

By: /s/Elizabeth C. Berg
Elizabeth C. Berg

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

In re	)	Chapter 7
)	
Kipp & Nadine Johnson,	)	Case No. 15-00973
)	
Debtors.	)	Honorable Donald R. Cassling
	)	(Geneva)
	)	Hearing Date: April 8, 2016
	)	Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.

**First Application for Allowance and Payment of Final Compensation
And Expense Reimbursement of Baldi Berg, Ltd., Attorneys for Trustee**

Baldi Berg, Ltd. ("BB"), attorneys for Elizabeth C. Berg, as trustee ("Trustee") of the estate ("Estate") of Kipp and Nadine Johnson, debtors ("Debtors"), pursuant to section 330 of title 11, United States Code ("Code"), request this Court to enter an order for the allowance and payment to BB of (1) \$2,303.00 as final compensation for 11.10 hours of legal services rendered to the Trustee, from May 7, 2015 through the close of this case. In support thereof, BB respectfully states as follows:

Introduction

1. The Debtors commenced this case on January 13, 2015 ("Petition Date") by filing a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 7 of the Code.
2. Elizabeth C. Berg is the duly appointed, qualified and acting chapter 7 trustee in this case.
3. As of the commencement of this case, the Estate's assets of value consisted of equity in the debtor's 2010 Subaru Outback ("Automobile"), certain real estate commissions owed to Ms. Johnson as of the Petition Date ("Commissions"), and Mr. Johnson's ownership interest in Equest Ventures, LLC ("Equest Ventures").
4. The bar date for filing general unsecured claims in this case was August 31, 2015.

Retention of Baldi Berg, Ltd.

5. On May 15, 2015, the Court entered an ordered authorizing Trustee to employ

Elizabeth C. Berg and the law firm of Baldi Berg, Ltd. as her counsel in this case. A copy of the order authorizing Trustee to retain BB is attached hereto as Exhibit A. BB has served as counsel for Trustee at all times since its retention.

6. The professional qualifications and experience of the BB attorneys and paralegals who have performed substantial legal services for the Trustee during the period covered by this Application are set forth in Exhibit B. The attorneys and paralegals who were responsible for representing the Trustee in this case are:

Elizabeth C. Berg – Partner
Julia D. Loper – Associate
Ricki K. Podorovsky – Paralegal
Jason M. Manola – Paralegal

Prior Compensation and Expense Reimbursement Received

7. This is the first and final application ("Application") for allowance and payment of compensation and expense reimbursement that BB will file in this case.

Services Rendered by BB

8. Itemized and detailed descriptions of the specific services rendered by BB to the Trustee for which compensation is sought in this Application are reflected on the billing statements attached hereto as Exhibit C. The billing statements set forth the name of each attorney or paralegal, the amount of time spent rendering each service, the date on which each service was rendered, a description of the service rendered and the total number of hours of services rendered by each attorney or paralegal in each category.

9. The services rendered by BB included advising and representing the Trustee as to general case administration matters including the liquidation of the Estate's interest in the Automobile, Equest Ventures and the Commissions. As requested by Trustee, BB prepared and presented the Trustee's Motion to Employ Attorneys and Accountants. BB conducted an extensive analysis of the Debtor's records including pre-petition real estate contracts, listing agreements, tax

returns, financials of Equest Ventures and related documents in order to identify the value of the Commissions and the Debtor's ownership interest in Equest Ventures. Trustee negotiated with Debtors to settle the Estate's Interest in the Automobile, Commissions and Equest Ventures. As requested by Trustee, BB prepared the Trustee's Motion to Settle with the Debtors for a collection of \$12,500.00 over 3 months and BB also prepared this final fee application.

Compensation Requested

10. In connection with the foregoing services described in paragraph nine above, BB spent 11.10 hours for which BB requests allowance and payment of final compensation in the amount of \$2,303.00.

11. All of the services performed by BB were required for proper representation of the Trustee in this case, were authorized by this Court and were performed by BB at the request and direction of the Trustee. Pursuant to Section 330 of the Code and the generally applicable criteria with respect to the nature, extent and value of the services performed, all of BB's services are compensable and the compensation requested herein is fair and reasonable. There has been no duplication of services rendered to the Trustee by BB for which compensation is requested. In those instances where two attorneys participated in any matter, such joint participation was necessary due to the complexity of the problems involved.

12. The rates charged by the attorneys and paralegals of BB in this Application, as adjusted from time to time, are their usual and customary hourly rates charged during the period covered by this Application for work performed for other clients in both bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy matters. A list of each person who performed services for the Trustee and their hourly rate is contained in the billing statements attached hereto as Exhibit C.

Payment of Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

13. BB has not entered into any agreement or understanding of any kind, express or implied, with any other entity to share any compensation or expense reimbursement to be received

by BB for services rendered to the Trustee or expenses incurred in connection with this case.

14. BB has not previously received or been promised any payments for services rendered or expenses incurred in this case.

15. The Affidavit of Elizabeth C. Berg pursuant to Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure is attached hereto as Exhibit D and made a part hereof.

16. The proposed source for payment of the compensation requested in this Application are the Estate funds in the Trustee's possession, collected by her during her administration of this case.

Status of the Case

17. The Trustee has administered all of the assets belonging to this Estate and completed her review and analysis of the claims filed against the Estate.

18. Trustee has completed and filed her Final Report simultaneously herewith. A final fee application for the Trustee has also been filed concurrently with this Application.

Financial Condition of the Case

19. Trustee currently has approximately \$12,500.00 on deposit in the Estate's bank accounts. The Chapter 7 administrative expenses that are currently owing and those the Trustee anticipates the Estate will incur prior to the closing of this case include 1) the fees allowed to Trustee in connection with her final fee application, 2) the legal fees allowed to Baldi Berg, Ltd. in connection with this final fee application, and 3) any other fees which may be due or outstanding to the offices of the United States Trustee and the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court.

20. Following payment of all Chapter 7 administrative expenses set forth above, Trustee estimates there will not be funds available to make a distribution to general unsecured creditors.

Trustee's Approval

21. BB certifies that the Trustee has received, reviewed and approved this Application.

WHEREFORE, Baldi Berg, Ltd., attorneys for Elizabeth C. Berg, as trustee, requests the

C. For such other and further relief as this Court deems appropriate.

**Elizabeth C. Berg
Baldi Berg, Ltd.
20 N. Clark St. Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60602
312.726.8150**

**Baldi Berg, Ltd.
Final Fee Application**

**Kipp & Nadine Johnson, Debtors
Case No. 15-00973**

Retention Order

Exhibit A

Document Page 1 of 1
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
Eastern Division

In Re:	)	BK No.: 15-00973
Kipp & Nadine Johnson,)	
)	
	)	Chapter: 7
	)	Honorable Donald R. Cassling
)	
	)	Kane
Debtor(s))	

Order Authorizing Trustee to Employ Attorneys

THIS CAUSE comes before this Court on the Trustee's Application to Employ Elizabeth C. Berg and the law firm of Baldi Berg, Ltd. as attorneys for Trustee and the supporting affidavit of Elizabeth C. Berg; and the Court being fully advised in the premises:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Elizabeth C. Berg, as trustee of the bankruptcy estate of Kipp & Nadine Johnson, is authorized to employ Elizabeth C. Berg and the law firm of Baldi Berg, Ltd. to act as counsel for the Trustee, with compensation to be paid in such amounts as may be allowed by this Court, only upon further application.

Enter:

Donald R. Cassling

Honorable Donald R. Cassling

United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: May 15, 2015

Prepared by:

Elizabeth C. Berg
Baldi Berg, Ltd.
20 N. Clark Street, Ste. 200
Chicago, IL 60602
312.726.8150

**Baldi Berg, Ltd.
Final Fee Application**

**Kipp & Nadine Johnson, Debtors
Case No. 15-00973**

Professional Qualifications

Exhibit B

Baldi Berg, Ltd.

Elizabeth C. Berg

Elizabeth C. Berg is a partner of Baldi Berg, Ltd., a Chicago area bankruptcy boutique, and has been with the firm since its inception in April, 2000. Before her affiliation with Baldi, Berg, Mrs. Berg worked at the Chicago law firms of Schwartz & Freeman; Rosenthal and Schanfield; and Weissman, Smolev & Pond.

Mrs. Berg has specialized in bankruptcy law since her admission to the bar in 1989 and has focused her practice in the representation of bankruptcy trustees, primarily in chapter 7 bankruptcies. Since 2010, Mrs. Berg has served on the panel of private bankruptcy trustees appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to her graduation from law school, Mrs. Berg spent six years as a legal assistant, focusing her practice in the areas of secured transactions, mortgage lending, and corporate and bankruptcy law.

Mrs. Berg is admitted to practice in the State of Illinois and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the American Bankruptcy Institute. She is also an active participant in the regional CARE program and delivers credit abuse and financial literacy presentations to area high schools. She has also been a part-time instructor in the Paralegal Studies Department of Northwestern Business College where she taught introductory law classes to prospective legal assistants. Mrs. Berg received her Juris Doctor from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law and her certification as a paralegal from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University in French Language and Culture and studied at La Sorbonne and l'Université de Paris as an undergraduate.

In addition to her legal and academic pursuits, Mrs. Berg has been active in her hometown of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, serving as a Girl Scout Leader for nine years and volunteering in a variety of activities at her church and in the local schools.

Baldi Berg, Ltd.

Julia D. Loper

Julia D. Loper is an associate with the firm and represents bankruptcy trustees and debtors in chapter 7, chapter 11, and chapter 13 bankruptcies. Ms. Loper has worked with Baldi Berg, Ltd. since 2009. Ms. Loper also has general civil litigation experience. Ms. Loper is admitted to practice in the State of Illinois and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. Ms. Loper received her Juris Doctor from Michigan State College of Law and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Utah in Psychology and Gender Studies.

Ricki K. Podorovsky

Ricki K. Podorovsky is a paralegal with the firm. Ms. Podorovsky has worked with Baldi Berg, Ltd. since 2001. Ms. Podorovsky has worked with Chapter 7 Trustees for approximately 20 years. Ms. Podorovsky received her Paralegal Certificate with honors from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Podorovsky received her Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Iowa in Philosophy.

Jason M. Manola

Jason M. Manola is a paralegal with the firm. Mr. Manola has worked with Baldi Berg, Ltd. since 2011. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association and the DuPage County Bar Association. Mr. Manola is currently pursuing his Paralegal Certificate at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Mr. Manola received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in Sports Management and Entrepreneurship.

**Baldi Berg, Ltd.
Final Fee Application**

**Kipp & Nadine Johnson, Debtors
Case No. 15-00973**

Billing Statements

Exhibit C

Baldi Berg, Ltd.
20 N. Clark Street
Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: (312) 726-8150

Fax: (312) 470-6323

FEIN: 36-4352753

Invoice submitted to:

February 22, 2016

Invoice No: 02678

Elizabeth C. Berg, Trustee
 Baldi Berg, Ltd.
 20 N. Clark Street
 Suite 200
 Chicago, ILLINOIS 60602

In Reference to: *Johnson, Kipp & Nadine - General Admin***Professional Services**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Charges</u>
5/07/2015	JMM	Draft Application to Employ Attorneys (.8), Affidavit (.1), Proposed Order (.1), Draft Application to Employ Accountants (.7), Affidavit (.1), Proposed Order (.1)	1.90 \$185.00/ hr	\$351.50
5/07/2015	JMM	Edit Motion to Employ Attys (.2), Edit Motion to Employ Accountants (.2)	0.40 \$185.00/ hr	\$74.00
6/01/2015	JDL	Begin drafting Motion to approve settlement	0.80 \$250.00/ hr	\$200.00
6/03/2015	ECB	Review and approve notice to CR of settlement with debtors (.1) Revise Motion and Order to Approve Settlement (.3)	0.40 \$325.00/ hr	\$130.00
6/03/2015	JDL	Finalize motion to approve compromise and settlement (.6) Draft 2002 notice and proposed order re: same (.5)	1.10 \$250.00/ hr	\$275.00
1/25/2016	RKP	Review and analyze claims (.2); email to J. Manola re: issue with JP Morgan Chase claim (.1)	0.30 \$195.00/ hr	\$58.50

Baldi Berg, Ltd

2/22/2016

Johnson, Kipp & Nadine - General Admin

Page 2

1/26/2016	RKP	Phone conversation with Roxanne at JP Morgan Chase re: Trustee's objection to claim	0.20 \$195.00/ hr	\$39.00
1/27/2016	RKP	Follow-up call with Orlando and Elmer at JP Morgan Chase re: Trustee objection to claim	0.20 \$195.00/ hr	\$39.00
1/28/2016	RKP	Phone conversation with Trustee re: issue with JP Morgan claim	0.20 \$195.00/ hr	\$39.00
2/02/2016	RKP	Review claims register to see if Chase amended or withdrew its claim (.1); begin draft motion to value security interest (1.5)	1.60 \$195.00/ hr	\$312.00
2/08/2016	RKP	Further draft to Motion to Determine Value of Security (1.0); draft proposed order (.2); review/edit same (.2)	1.40 \$195.00/ hr	\$273.00
2/11/2016	RKP	Edit motion to value claim 5 secured by lien per Trustee (.2); compile exhibits and prepare for service and filing (.1)	0.30 \$195.00/ hr	\$58.50
2/19/2016	ECB	Court appearance on TR Motion to Value Claim at zero	0.20 \$325.00/ hr	\$65.00
2/22/2016	JMM	Draft BB Fee Application (1.4), Coversheet, proposed order and affidavit (.3), Review and edit re: same (.4)	2.10 \$185.00/ hr	\$388.50

Total Fees \$2,303.00

Total New Charges \$2,303.00

Previous Balance \$0.00

Balance Due \$2,303.00

Timekeeper Summary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Elizabeth C Berg	0.60	\$325.00

Baldi Berg, Ltd

2/22/2016

Johnson, Kipp & Nadine - General Admin

Page 3

Julia D Loper	1.90	\$250.00
Jason M Manola	4.40	\$185.00
Ricki K Podorovsky	4.20	\$195.00
	<u>11.10</u>	

**Baldi Berg, Ltd.
Final Fee Application**

**Kipp & Nadine Johnson, Debtors
Case No. 15-00973**

Rule 2016 Affidavit

Exhibit D

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

In re:) Chapter 7
)
Kipp & Nadine Johnson,) Case No. 15-00973
)
) Honorable Donald R. Cassling
Debtors.) (Geneva)

Rule 2016 Affidavit

State of Illinois)
County of Cook)

I, Elizabeth C. Berg, being first duly sworn upon oath, do depose and state as follows:

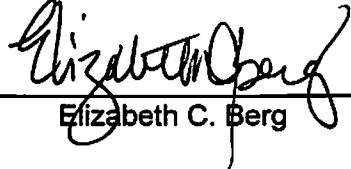
1. I am a shareholder of Baldi Berg, Ltd. and am authorized to execute this affidavit on behalf of Baldi Berg, Ltd.

2. I have read the Application for Allowance and Payment of Final Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Baldi Berg, Ltd., Attorneys for Trustee ("Application") and all of the factual matters set forth therein are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Baldi Berg, Ltd. has performed the services and incurred the expenses set forth and described in the Application at the request and pursuant to the direction of the Trustee.

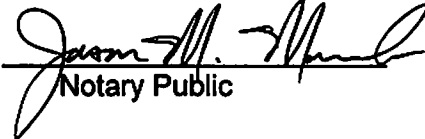
3. A copy of the Application has been provided to Trustee and the Trustee has reviewed and approved the Application.

4. Baldi Berg, Ltd. has not previously received payment of any compensation or expense reimbursement for services rendered or expenses incurred in connection with this case. Baldi Berg, Ltd. has not entered into any agreement with any other person or persons for the sharing of compensation or expense reimbursement to be received in connection with this matter, except among the principals and associates of Baldi Berg, Ltd.

5. Further affiant sayeth naught.


Elizabeth C. Berg

Subscribed and Sworn to before me
this 8th day of March, 2016.


Notary Public

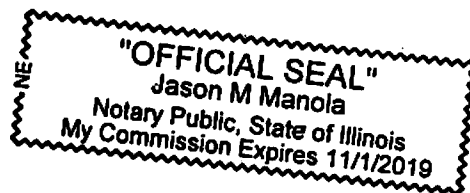


Exhibit D